

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

We've been told, historically, a year like 2004 happens once in every hundred years, and we're trusting that to be a true statement. Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne caused us to shift our priorities from the usual day-to-day activities to rebuilding and restoring. I am pleased to be able to say we are making great progress in getting our Town back into shape.

Enough cannot be said about the accomplishments of our Public Safety personnel and resident volunteers who came to the aid of so many who needed assistance. We are very fortunate to have a group of officers who put our residents' needs first, as many of you have had the opportunity to experience. Our Building Department consists of two individuals who continue to schedule and make forty to fifty building inspections daily in an attempt to bring homes into a habitable condition. In the midst of the storms, our Postal Clerk was at her job putting up any mail that we were fortunate to receive. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk spent innumerable hours reconciling the FEMA paperwork for reimbursement of nearly one million dollars in fees for debris removal and repairs to Town Hall and Public Safety. All of Town staff is to be commended for doing their best to help our residents through this time of hardship.

Projects of interest completed in 2004 include:

- Fred Tuerk Drive Drainage Improvement
- Initial due diligence for annexation of the Loffler Property - Anticipated completion in 2005
- Ongoing Research on the Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code
- Initial work on the Wetlands and Stormwater Ordinance - Ready for consideration and adoption in 2005
- The building permit fee schedule was updated by staff and adopted by Council
- The Community Center was rejuvenated with new flooring, carpeting and fresh paint.

I would like to extend my appreciation as well as that of staff to Councilman John A. Klein who has chosen not to seek re-election for another four year term. It has been our pleasure to work with Mr. Klein, and we wish him the best in all his future endeavors. Our "freshman" Councilperson, Frances F. Atchison, was sworn in on March 9, 2005. Town staff and I extend a hearty welcome to Mrs. Atchison and assure her of our full cooperation in getting her up to speed.

We must also offer our congratulations and appreciation to Alice Hayslip, our Postal Clerk, and Barbara Readdy, our Town Clerk, who will both be retiring shortly. Alice has been with the Town fifteen years and most of our residents will miss her southern drawl and her cheerful assistance in the Post Office. Barbara has been with the Town nine years and has served the Town and its residents well. We will miss both of these "young" ladies, and wish them all the happiness they deserve.

As always, I encourage you to stop in at Town Hall with your comments and ideas.

Robert J. Bradshaw
Town Manager